

REMARKS

Claims 1-33, 51, and 52 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, and 11 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, and 12-33 are original. Claims 34-50 have been canceled. Claim 51 has been withdrawn and currently amended. Claim 52 has been withdrawn. No new matter has been introduced by the response. Support for amended independent claims 1, 4, 7, and 9 can be found in Applicants' specification, for example, in page 12, lines 28-30.

The Office Action sets forth a requirement for restriction between: Group I: Claims 1-33, drawn to a method of manufacture by micrometer and nanometer scale spatially selective deposition of chemical substances on a substrate;

Group II: Claims 34-38 and 40-46, drawn to a method of manufacturing a flat screen display panel;

Group III: Claim 47, drawn to a flat screen display panel according to method of claim 34;

Group IV: Claim 48, drawn to a flat screen display panel according to method of claim 42;

Group V: Claims 49 and 50, drawn to a flat screen display panel according to method of claim 45;

Group VI: Claim 51, drawn to a DNA array according to method of claim 8; and

Group VII: Claim 52, drawn to a micrometer and nanometer scale substrate according to method of claim 1.

The Office has characterized the relationship between Groups I, VI, and VII as lacking a single special technical feature as defined by PCT Rule 13.2 in view of Montgomery (U.S. Pat. No. 6,280,595) (Office Action, pages 3-4). The Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement of Groups I, VI, and VII on the

grounds that the technical features linking Groups I, VI, and VII define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over Montgomery.

Montgomery discloses a method of preparing a substrate by using an array of electrodes to generate electrochemical reagents (see column 11, lines 31-40). Montgomery, however, explicitly teaches that an aqueous slurry type solution (a buffering or scavenging solution) and/or a “getter” structure are required to confine the electrochemical reagents to the area immediately proximate the electrodes. In the absence of such a solution or structure, the electrochemical reagents from various electrodes could cross talk because the electrochemical reagents diffuse from one electrode to another electrode (see column 12, line 36 to column 13, line 54). In other words, the area immediately proximate to the electrodes, that is, the selected regions where the chemical deposition occurs, is defined by the buffering or scavenging solution and/or the “getter” structure, not by the electrodes.

In contrast, the methods as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 9 comprise defining at least one region on the substrate by forming an electrostatic charge or electric field on that region which is different from the electrostatic charge or electric field on other regions of the substrate, applying an emulsion to the substrate, the emulsion comprising an electrically charged discontinuous phase, and directing/depositing the discontinuous phase of the emulsion to the at least one region by attraction by (or repulsion from) the electrostatic charge or electric field on the region. The DNA array and the micrometre and nanometre scale spatially selective deposition of chemical substance on a substrate as recited in claims 51 and 52 comprise structures implied by the steps as recited in amended independent claims 9 and 1 above, respectively. In other words, the implied structures comprise at least one region on the substrate that is defined differently from the region as disclosed in Montgomery. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that

Group I (claims 1-33) and Group VI (claim 51), and Group I (claims 1-33) and Group VII (claim 52) relate to common technical features, and that the common technical features linking Groups I and VI, and Groups I and VII define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over Montgomery. The Applicants thus further respectfully submit that the restriction between the claims in Groups I, VI, and VII should be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for examination. The examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned agent to expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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